

***Carex stylosa* C.A. Mey.**
long styled sedge
Cyperaceae (Sedge Family)

Status: State Sensitive
Rank: G5S1S2

General Description: This is a densely matted sedge with a stout rhizomatous root system, reaching heights of 10 to 25 in. ($\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ m). The culm is fibrous close to its base and is purple-red in color. It has 5 to 10 coarse, almost flat leaves per culm, which are crowded at the base. The leaves are generally shorter than the culms and are approximately $\frac{1}{16}$ in. (2 mm) wide. The leaf margins are rolled downward, curling under. There are 2 to 4 almost sheathless spikes, about $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ in. ($\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ cm) long. Flower spikes are hanging to erect on a stiff individual stem that can be up to $\frac{3}{4}$ in. (2 cm) long. The higher the spike on the inflorescence the more erect it will be. The top spike usually lacks pistils but sometimes may have stamens on the upper portion and pistils on the lower portion of the spike. A bract can be found immediately under the lowest occurring flower. The lowest bracts are shorter than or equal to the inflorescence in length. The perigynia of *C. stylosa* are $\frac{1}{8} \times \frac{1}{16}$ in. ($2\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{3}{4}$ mm). The perigynia are yellow-green, with a short beak and often having a few serrations near the tip along the edge. The three styles conspicuously protrude in early maturity and eventually fall off.

Identification Tips: Similar sedges often have a longer style(s), $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ in. (2 to 5 mm), or have significantly smaller style(s), less than $\frac{1}{32}$ in. (1 mm). The styles of *C. stylosa* are $\frac{1}{32}$ to $\frac{1}{16}$ in. (1 to 2 mm).

Phenology: This species flowers between June and September.

Range: *Carex stylosa* can be found predominantly in northern regions. Occurrences have been found in Greenland, British Columbia., Newfoundland, Quebec, Yukon, Alaska, Washington, and Asia (stretching to the Far East). In Washington, occurrences have been recorded in Clallam, Jefferson, Snohomish, Whatcom, and Skagit counties.

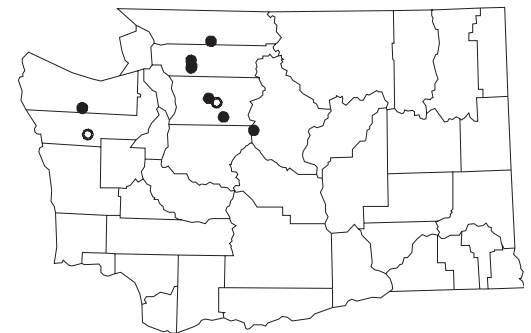
Habitat: *Carex stylosa* has been found mainly in coastal regions of Washington and in shallow marshes, gravelly loam, streambanks, and moist meadows. Some occurrences in Washington are known to be growing over hardened lava flow.

Carex stylosa
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Known distribution of
Carex stylosa
in Washington



- Current (1980+)
- Historic (older than 1980)

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Photo by Clay Antieau



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Ecology: Occurrences have been found among populations of knotweed (*Polygonum* spp.), Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja* spp.), lupines (*Lupinus* spp.), and rushes (*Juncus* spp.) Documented as a wetland species, *C. stylosa* can be found among other wetland species that share similar habitat.

State Status Comments: The species is known from approximately 12 occurrences in the state. The Washington populations are at the southern most range of the species.

Inventory Needs: It is recommended that occurrences be updated in their respective counties.

Threats and Management Concerns: Threats include hydrologic shifts and timber harvest.

References:

Flora of North America Editorial Committee eds. 2002. *Flora of North America, Vol. 23: Magnoliophyta: Commelinidae (in part): Cyperaceae*. Oxford University Press. 608 pp.

Hitchcock, C.L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, J.W. Thompson. 1969. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest, Part 1: Vascular Cryptogams, Gymnosperms, and Monocotyledons*. University of Washington Press. 914 pp.